THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Cumberland County Regional Library

Beverly True retires after 30 years of library service in Cumberland County

Born and raised in the United States, Beverly True grew up in a military family. She received a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Pedagogy from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston in 1957. As a young woman, Beverly dreamed of a career in the arts and was active not only in music, but in drama as well.

However, a career in music and theatre was not deemed a practical career choice, and Beverly decided to take another career path. In keeping with her love of literature, Beverly chose to pursue a career in Library Service and graduated from Rutgers University with her Master's degree in 1963. During her time as a library school student and after graduation she worked at the New York Public Library providing reference service.

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In 1969 she was intrigued by an advertisement for a Head Librarian for the Amherst branch at the newly formed Cumberland Regional Library. By this point, Beverly had grown somewhat disillusioned by big city life and longed to work in a small town where she could get to know her patrons and make a difference in the community she served. Also, Beverly's mother was originally from Noel, Nova Scotia and she knew she would enjoy living in the Maritimes.

After serving as Head of the Amherst branch and Reference Librarian for two years, Beverly was promoted to Chief Librarian and has held that position for the past 28 years. During that time she continued to develop the fledgling Cumberland Regional library system which was formed in 1967. Additional branches were added throughout the years to increase service points and she kept the regional library running smoothly throughout years of budget cuts, policy changes, and automation. In spite of a demanding work schedule, Beverly always found time for outside interests.

Beverly also served on numerous committees and associations throughout her career, including the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Provinces Library Association,and the Nova Scotia Library Assocation. She served on the Amherst Chamber of Commerce as well. In 1969 Beverly founded the Amherst Drama Society and has produced, directed and acted in numerous productions. In addition, many local residents remember Beverly for the weekly story time she did for the local radio station throughout the 1970s and '80s.

Astronaut Steve MacLean draws large crowd

The highlight of the summer was undoubtedly the visit by Canadian astronaut Steve MacLean on August 19th. The summer reading club was very successful; 430 children participated across the county. Among other children's programs, the school readiness program at Maggie's Place visited the Amherst branch in August and a special story hour was held in Parrsboro.

Region's many summer programs well-attended
Almost 650 people attended 28 programs this summer. Activities included 'multicultural mornings' with Donna Morse, who volunteered three mornings a week at the Amherst branch in July. Donna's program included a mix of multicultural stories, folk tales, and legends for children.

Eastern Counties Regional Library
Summer Events and Fall Beginnings

This was a busy summer! A collage of photographs is displayed here to give a taste of the activities.
Right:Library staff and van in Scotia Days Parade, Mulgrave

Canso Deputy Mayor and Library Board member, Joseph Walsh holds the cake while Board chair Shirley McNamara (left) and Guysborough MLA, Ron Chisholm (right) cut at the Canso Library 30 th anniversary party.

Library assistant Sandra Dixon (right) assists library patron at the inauguration of Eastern Counties's new patron card in August.

A group of children pose with Giséle Leblanc, Francophone bookmobile library assistant for Cheticamp and Saint Joseph du Moine (right) and Napoléon Chiasson, a Board member (left) at the closing party of the French Summer Reading Program held in the NDA School, Cheticamp.

Astronaut Steve McLean poses with public and school library staff at the Port Hawkesbury Branch Library. (From left) Marina MacIntyre school library assistant, Rhonda Strachan, Dr. Steve Maclean, Ann Campbell and Therese Reynolds.

Going into the fall, the staff at Eastern are focusing their energies on the ongoing automation project. Throughout the fall months, a student co-op worker will be providing staff and public training.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

Retirement Reception for Ann Ripley

On July 16 , 1999 the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) Board hosted a reception in the New Glasgow Library Program Room in honour of Ann Ripley's retirement after 28 years of employment with the Regional Library. Ann joined the PARL staff in 1971 upon graduation from Dalhousie Library School and was soon appointed to the position of Chief Librarian/ Board Secretary. In this position Ann lead the Regional Library from the days of branches with no telephones to the implementation of the automated library system and cell phones.

Ann's reception gave colleagues, friends, family and staff the opportunity to extend gratitude to her for her dedication to the Regional Library over the past 28 years and wish her the best of health and happiness as she prepares to embark on her retirement career.

Eric Stackhouse - New Chief Librarian

Pictou- Antigonish Regional Library Board is pleased to announce that Eric Stackhouse has been selected as the Chief Librarian upon the retirement of Ann Ripley. Eric takes on the duties of his new position immediately and welcomes any comments or suggestions from the public on library services. Eric has been with the Regional Library for the last four years as Systems and Reference Librarian.

New Automated Library Circulation System

The new automated circulation system has been up and running since early summer and has been working well. By checking our the online catalog at web site http://www.parl.ns.ca you can determine the availability of a library item and find out which branch library holds that item. Patrons can then fill out our Requests Form to have staff place a Hold. The library will call patrons when the material is ready to be picked up.

Children participating in the Summer Reading Program called " Launch Yourself Into A Good Book" enjoyed a variety of activities around a Space Theme. Several students were hired - Amanda Fraser and Andrea Curry delivered a very popular program. Over 100 children regularly attended sessions which offered stories, information on planets, crafts, games and more. The launch for the summer reading program was held in the Stellarton Library with more than 35 children joining in on the fun. A special day called Space Day was held mid August in the New Glasgow Library Program Room with the highlight being a visit during the evening by astronaut Steve MacLean.

Western Counties Regional Library

Library Card month boosts new memberships

The second annual Library Card Month, sponsored by Cameron Publications, was held this month. The goal for this year was to increase membership by 10 per cent. Organizers promoted Library Card Month with a full-page ad, compliments of the Southwest Regional School Board, in all of this summer's *Gift of Literacy* books. Last year's Library Card Month attracted 865 new members. The Regional Library has set a target of 1000 new members for Digby, Shelburne & Yarmouth counties for September 1999.

When a new member is registered by a current borrower, both become eligible to win a one year subscription to their county newspaper: The Digby Courier, The CoastGuard, or the Vanguard. All three newspapers are published by Cameron Publications. Other supporters for Library Card Month include Tusket Sales & Service and CJLS. Along with encouraging new members, Library Card Month also bring into focus the fact that library cards do expire.

Summer Reading Program

As in all the other regions, the summer reading program was a great success! Devon Smith (far right) from Shelburne won the space kit draw during astronaut Steve MacLean's visit to the region on Aug 20. Virginia Stoddard, Deputy Chief Librarian (far left) presented the prize.

Come to Supper II: More Favourite Recipes from South Western Nova Scotia is set to launch on Oct 29 across the region. Sobeys, sponsor of the cookbook has purchased 400 of the 1500 copies for its stores in our area. As part of the pre-launch publicity, "Harvest Baskets", which contain all the "fixins" for a turkey dinner and a free copy of *Come to Supper II*, have been prepared for all our branches. Tickets are $1.00 each. Winners will be announced on launch day.

Quick up-date on Birthday Club
By September 1, 1029 children had been registered with the CJLS Birthday Club. Birthdays are announced every day on the regional station. Children must have a library card to become a member of the Birthday Club.

UPDATE ON CAP AND NOVA SCOTIA'S LIBRARIES: BRINGING TECHNOLOGY TO THE PEOPLE

When Industry Canada initiated the Community Access Program (CAP), it seemed to be the perfect opportunity to expand the services offered at the library to provide access to patrons to the information highway. The purpose of CAP sites is to provide affordable access to information technology to people in rural areas. To many in the library world, libraries seemed the logical place to locate such sites. **Alvero Wiggins** (right) discovers lots of great sites as he explores the Web at the Halifax North Public Library's CAP site.

CAP Sites at Annapolis Regional Library:
The library has a CAP site at the Wolfville Branch, where there are five computers, a scanner and a laser printer. Staff are running courses on computer basics, Internet basics, Word, WordPerfect, graphics, HTML. In addition, a Kids Entrepreneurial Camp was held. The lab is now managed by a permanent part-time manager. The Annapolis Regional Library is in the process of meeting with a group from Kentville to consider partnering in applying for a CAP site at the Kentville branch.

CAP sites at Cape Breton Regional Library:
CAP sites have been added since 1995 in the Cape Breton Regional Library. Sites exist now in six branches. Project partners include schools, cultural groups, business development groups, community volunteers, Municipal governments and local business. Users vary in age and services required. There has been a large increase in visitor use of e-mail at sites. For examle, in July and August, more than three times the number of visitors took advantage of this service over the same period last year.

The library has taken a lead role in establishing the C@P Society of Cape Breton County over the past six months. There are currently 15 CAP sites in Cape Breton which work together to take advantage of new

programs and services.

CAP sites at Cumberland Regional Library:
At present the only official CAP site located in Cumberland Regional Library is in the Four Fathers Memorial Branch Library, Amherst. This was the result of a successful CAP joint application made several years ago by the Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association and the library.

The Library has also worked with the Community College in Springhill, the River Hebert Village Commission, and the Advocate Harbour Area District Commission in the preparation of CAP site proposals that are being or have been recently submitted.

CAP site at Halifax North Memorial Public Library:

In August of 1998, through a pilot project with Industry Canada's Urban Community Access Program (CAP), the Halifax North Memorial Public Library of the Halifax Regional Library opened it's North End Community Access Centre. Councillor Jerry Blumenthal and Councillor Graham Downey joined Halifax Regional Library Board Member Betty Thomas at the CAP site launch September 18, 1998.

The site houses four Internet access computers. Since 1998, the Halifax North Branch has had over 12,350 bookings of the computers. The site has been visited by a variety of users such as single parents, job hunters, adult learners and children as young as four years old. This summer the North End Community Access Center was pleased to offer a computer club for youth in North End Halifax.

CAP Sites at Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library:
The New Glasgow Library CAP Site summer student Jolene Shaw provided free training in Internet, e-mail and WordPerfect. A total of 66 people received one-on-one training from Jolene - 33% of those receiving training were seniors. Ben Bain , the student hired at the River John Library CAP Site, held many one hour Internet tutor sessions and held a workshop for the CAP Volunteer Committee on the use of the digital camera. As well, Ben worked on the Wooden Ships site at http://www.riverjohn.com

The Trenton Community Access Project - a partnership of Community Volunteers, the Town of Trenton, and Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library has received approval from Industry Canada. A grant of $20,000 will allow the purchase of more computers, scanners, etc and increase the Internet/Technology access from 16 hours per week (present library hours) to 29. One-on-one assistance and training will be provided by a staff member at all times during open hours.

The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is extending its delivery of library and information services to rural communities through 2 CAP Sites starting this fall. The two CAP sites chosen for this pilot project are Maryvale school (Antigonish County) and Pictou Island (Pictou County). The Express@CAP will provide community members with direct access to Regional Library Books -By-Mail service. There will also be access to our Regional Information Service, where trained staff locate information on any topic.

CAP Sites at Western Counties Regional Library:
Through partnerships with Community Access committees Western Counties Regional Library provides CAP sites at six branches across the region. Westport, Weymouth, Lockeport and Shelburne are multi site locations. The Digby CAP site is located at the Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library.

WCRL is a CAP site in itself as a region. The focus as a regional site is to be able to give public education on a broader scope. For example, with the major purchase of a video projector, through CAP funds, presentations on

resources such as the Western Health Information Project can be given. The projector is also beneficial in introducing new electronic resources such as the launch of the Heritage Web Site page on September 29.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Staffing Notes

Staff at the Provincial Library welcomed Susan Rashed earlier this summer. Susan has joined the NcompasS support team. As a Library System Support Technician, she will be responsible for the Provincial Library LAN and provide support for NcompasS.

Michael Moore has been working on a short term project in User Services this summer, bar coding the reference collection and weeding the talking books.

Rod Tucker joined Technical Services on September 7 as NcompasS Extranet Developer. He recently worked for the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment Library and currently works part time at the Thomas Raddall Public Library.

Bernadette Kennedy joined Provincial Library staff this summer as Project Manager for the Access to Nova Scotia Government Library Holdings Project. Bernadette will be working with the government libraries, which are preparing their catalogues for addition to those available through Web NcompasS. For the past two years, Bernadette worked in the Westray Office of the Public Prosecution Service as a Document Management Specialist.

After a short stop at Provincial Library, Sara Underwood, Public Information Officer, has returned to a quieter life on Prince Edward Island. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

Training Notes

Reference Training News

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library is offering a series of workshops aimed at providing regional public library staff with information about common topics which crop up every day at the reference desk. For 1999/2000, the series includes nine workshop topics:

Sources of Company Information
Revisiting Search Engines
Global Tourism
Current Awareness Sources on the Web
Federal and Provincial Statutes on CD-Rom
Statistics Canada Resources
Job Searching
Introduction to HTML Composition
Advanced Webpage Design

Staff in the User Services Section of the Provincial Library will be conducting workshops between October 1999 and June 2000. Some of these workshops will be hosted by particular regional libraries, and others will be held in-house at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

HOT TIPS & UPDATES

Everyone wins with the Summer Reading Program

The final numbers aren't in yet, but it's generally agreed that the Summer Reading Program (SRP) was a huge success this year. The theme was "Launch Yourself Into A Good Book/Lancez-Vous Dans La Lecture." Wendy Robichaud, Media Relations officer for Colchester-East Hants worked hard arranging Steve's visit, and then accompanied him on his cross-province whistle-stop tour. Steve, Wendy reported, is very dedicated to education and was impressed with the care given to the delivery of the SRP by all the youth services librarians. He asked the children questions about the number of books read or what kind of stories they liked most.

Astronaut Steve MacLean's tour brought a great deal of media attention to the program, and his talks drew large crowds wherever he went. At one of Steve MacLean's special appearances during his provincial tour, Wendy (left) chatted to patron Steve Barron (right) about the astronaut's glove, which he is wearing.

Approximately 5,800 children read a set number of books at the nine regional libraries this summer. They were then entitled to fill out ballots for three prizes during the regions' wrap-up celebrations in early September. The ballots were divided into three age categories, preschool-6; 7-9; and 10 and up and a draw made from each age category.

The winners of bags of books from Tattletales are:
Preschool to age 6 category: Pauline Malpage, age 6, of Halifax
Ages 7-9 category: Taylor Acker, age 7, of Kentville
Ages 10 and up category: Nikki Crowell, Sheiburne, age 11

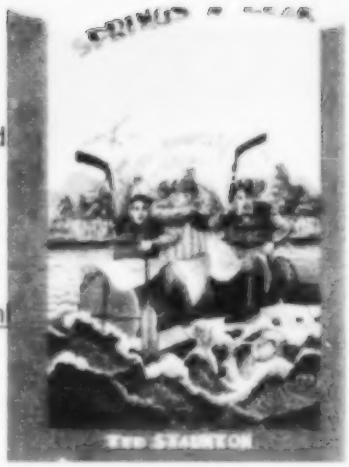
International Literacy Day
International Literacy Day celebrations were held Wednesday, September 8 at the Alderney Gate Library in Dartmouth. The Department of Education hosted an awards and recognition ceremony to celebrate the many accomplishments of the dedicated individuals who pursue and support lifelong learning. The event recognized those involved with the Community Literacy Initiative (CLI), Workplace Education, the General Educational Development (GED) diploma, and literacy and upgrading in the African Canadian community. In total, 11 awards were presented to outstanding adult learners, businesses and literacy organizations.

Hackmatack News

Hackmatack coordinator moves project forward
Monika Sormova started as Hackmatack Project Coordinator in August.Monika worked for several years for the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba. She was also employed by Academic Research and Student Services (Brandon University) cataloguing art works and coordinating the student resource room.

Hackmatack Finalists on the Web
The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award is an Atlantic Canadian book award that allows children to choose their favourite Canadian and Atlantic Canadian books.

In the May issue, we featured the first of six articles from each of the 1999-2000 Fiction Shortlist and the 1999-2000 Non-Fiction Shortlists. In this issue, the fiction title is *Hope Springs a Leak* by Ted Staunton (Reading Level: Grade 4), and the non-fiction title is *If You Could Wear My Sneakers!* by Sheree Fitch (Reading Level: Grade 3). Visit the Hackmatack page and read the book descriptions at www.library.ns.ca/hackmatack/books.htm



LibraryNet Summer Project

A number of regional public libraries and a health board participated in Industry Canada's program to help upgrade access to information on the Internet this summer through a Web Page Development Project. Eight young people were hired to do various projects, from updating current information to providing a whole new look and feel to regional library web pages.

The Web Development Project group took a moment to smile for the camera at a day-long orientation session at the Provincial Library. From left to right: Scott Lightfoot, Gayle Bird, Mark Purcell, Jean-Paul Doucette, Brandon Uhlman, Paula d'Eon, Ian Rutherford, Ken Lepage.

Both the participating libraries and the youth workers found this project beneficial; the host sites gained access to skills not always readily available, and the young people learned how to use their skills in specialized settings. Take a look at the new web pages at http://www.library.ns.ca/regionals and http://ycn.library.ns.ca/hosp/health.htm

New Listserv proving to be popular

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library's newest Listserv has received an enthusiastic reception so far, with about 25 people already signed up. Those who haven't subscribed to BLNS-L yet might want to consider doing so. This new Listserv alerts subscribers in the library community to the latest books, videos and serial titles added to the Nova Scotia Provincial Library's growing professional collection. Subscribers can also make suggestions for additions to the collection.

To subscribe to BLNS-L:
Send a message to listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca:
Leave the subject line blank
Write subscribe BLNS-L <your name> in the body of the message.

For more information about BLNS-L, contact Frank Oram at 424-2480, or e-mail foram@nshpl.library.ns.ca

REFERENCE ON THE NET

The following reference questions were referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries and answered from resources found on the Internet.

Q: Looking for information on starting a business in recycling or remanufacturing toner cartridges for printers.

A: At the EntrepreneurMag.com site at http://www.entrepreneurmag.com/ go to the Business Start-Ups section http://www.entrepreneurmag.com/bizstarts.hts either using the pop-up menu at the top right side of the page or the Business Start-Ups link at the bottom of the page. Then search Business Start-Ups Magazine using the search box down on the left side of the page. Enter the keyword "toner" and set the search to all issues of Business Start-Ups Magazine. This turns up a list of articles including "Business StartUps 12/93 Features: Hot Opportunity Recharge It! Laser Printer Recharging & Repair By Imran Husain" which is just what the patron is looking for.

Q: Would like the words and music to the song* Candle in the Wind *by Elton John as well as to the* Goodbye England's Rose *version.

A: The University of Washington Libraries Music Library Popular Song Database http://www.lib.washington.edu/asp/databases/music/PopSongBrowse.asp is an index to songs in books in the University of Washington Music Library . Enter the keywords "candle" AND "wind" in the search form and this locates the titles of two books which have this song in it. From here you can find out if there are local or Canadian locations for this book and request a copy of this song through interlibrary loan. The actual lyrics for this, as well as the *Goodbye England's Rose* version can be found at The Lyrics Library at http://tinpan.fortunecity.com/blondie/313/ At the top of this page in the "Main Collection sorted by Artist" section click on "J" and then on "Elton John". This will take you to the Elton John Lyrics page where further down the songs are listed alphabetically and the lyrics to both versions of this song are here. Note the copyright restriction warning at the top of this page.

Questions which appeared in previous **Reference on the Net** columns can be found at http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html

LINKed

With summer vacations behind us, this seems like a good time to feature some of the better websites for consumer information There is a lot of consumer information on the Internet, here are some authoritative sites for Canadian consumers to turn to:

Industry Canada's Consumer Information site at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_consu/engdoc/homepage.html includes topics such as credit card costs, product recalls and scams. The Consumer Help Desk section at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ca00465e.html has links to other sites with information on particular products and services. **Consumer Quarterly**, the Office of Consumer Affairs publication at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ca00039e.html has the full text of current and past issues from January, 1996. Also the full text of the **Canadian Consumer Handbook** is available at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ca01136e.html

Market Place, the site of CBC's investigative consumer program at http://www.tv.cbc.ca/market/ has stories covered on the program. The files section has fact sheets of information covered on past programs on cars, food, the environment, health & safety, the home, travel and recreation, scams, and finances. There are also links to useful web sites in each of these areas as well as to general consumer information sites.

Market Place's Recall and Warning Centre at http://www.tv.cbc.ca/market/recalls/ as current recall information for cars and vehicles, children's products, health and food and home products, as well as an archive of recalls going back to1995.

The Better Business Bureau for Canada & the US site is at http://www.bbb.org/ The site includes a resource library at http://www.bbb.org/library/index.html with an extensive full text collection of buying guides, pamphlets, alerts and news releases that cover many consumer topics. There is a link to The Better Business Bureau of

Nova Scotia at http://www.bbbns.com/bbbns/ Here Nova Scotia Better Business Bureau Members can be searched by category or company name at http://www.bbbns.com/bbbns/members.html

The Canadian Marketing Association at http://www.the-cma.org/ is the organization consumers can contact if they want to have their names removed from marketing lists. See the Do Not Mail /Do Not Call service at http://www.the-cma.org/consumers/dnm_dnc.html

Consumers Digest Online at http://www.consumerdigest.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/CD is the web site of Consumers Digest Magazine. This site can be searched for product information free of charge, and without registering. Information is provided in point form.

Consumer World at http://www.consumerworld.org/ was created by Edgar Dworsky, an American consumer advocate/educator and attorney. It has a massive number of links to consumer information in all areas imaginable. Although a lot of the information is American, much of it will be useful to Canadians.

Previous **LINKed** columns can be found at http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column are two books which are of particular interest to public libraries. These books can be borrowed through the regular interlibrary loan channels - send email to Dale MacMillan at macmildr@gov.ns.ca

Larson, Jeanette and Totten, Herman L. **Model policies for small and medium public libraries**. New York : Neal-Schuman, c.1998. Call #: Prof 025.174 Lar.
This book was written to provide staff in libraries serving populations under 100,000 with assistance in writing formal policies. This book provides a systematic way to explore policies already in place in your library, revise those that need to be updated and develop policies that may be needed but are missing in your organization. The authors have attempted to include most of the policies that would be useful for small and medium sized libraries.

Poor people and library services / edited by Karen M.Venturella. Jefferson, N.C. : McFarland, c.1998. Call #: Prof 027.6 Poo
The main theme of this book is that while libraries promise equality of service to all, the fact is that they often fall short of that lofty goal. The book explores why this is so and how it can be changed. This book is a collection of essays, in which the contributors talk about the barriers that prevent the poor from enjoying access to libraries and what can be done to break down these barriers.